

Message Text

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44

ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCCT-01 OIC-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 /097 R

DRAFTED BY IO/LABW:RCHEATER:OF

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

LABOR:EPERSONS

IO:WBUFFUM

NEA:HHSAUNDERS

EUR:DGOOTT

S/IL:DGOOD

S/S - MR. EALUM

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R 181911Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012808

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLO, PFOR, AORG, ELAB, IS

SUBJECT: ILO - REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF
PLO OBSERVER STATUS

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REF: EC BRUSSELS 265; PARIS 1125

1. 195TH SESSION OF ILO GOVERNING BODY WILL CONVENE IN GENEVA, FEBRUARY 17-MARCH 7, 1975, AND WILL HAVE BEFORE IT THE REQUEST OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) FOR OBSERVER STATUS. PLO PRESENTED ITS REQUEST AT 59TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE, JUNE 1974, BUT CONFERENCE OFFICERS DECIDED THAT STANDING ORDERS DID NOT COVER SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS PLO, AND ASKED GOVERNING BODY TO PROPOSE CHANGES IN STANDING ORDERS THAT WOULD PERMIT "PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE AND IN OTHER MEETINGS OF CONCERN TO THEM OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY OR BY THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES." THIS UMBRELLA FORMULA COVERS PLO, WHICH IS RECOGNIZED BY LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES.
 2. AFL-CIO IS FIRMLY ON RECORD AS OPPOSING PLO OBSERVER STATUS IN THE ILO BECAUSE IT VIEWS SUCH STATUS AS PREJUDICIAL TO INTERESTS OF ISRAEL. AFL-CIO HAS NOT STATED WHAT ACTION IT MIGHT TAKE IF THE ILO DOES GRANT PLO OBSERVER STATUS, BUT HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IT IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED.
 3. NOVEMBER 1974 GOVERNING BODY POSTPONED ACTION UNTIL FEBRUARY 1975 SESSION, RECOMMENDING THAT POSITIVE ACTION BE TAKEN AT THAT TIME. THE ITEM IS ON THE AGENDA, AND IF THE CHAIRMAN OPENS IT FOR DEBATE, THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT GOVERNING BODY WILL FORMALLY RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS THAT THE CONFERENCE OFFICERS REQUESTED.
 4. REFTELS INDICATE THAT AFL-CIO REP IRVING BROWN HAS TAKEN INITIATIVE WITH ICFTU AND ITS AFFILIATED UNIONS HAVING REPRESENTATIVES IN WORKERS GROUP OF GOVERNING BODY TO SECURE POSTPONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF PLO REQUEST FROM 195TH SESSION TO 196TH, MEETING IN MAY IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE 60TH SESSION OF CONFERENCE CONVENES, JUNE 4-25, 1975. BROWN'S MOTIVE APPEARS TO BE TO GAIN TIME IN THE HOPE THAT GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND MAY WILL ALTER THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE IT EASIER TO DEAL WITH
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- THE PLO ISSUE.
5. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ARAB OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE PLO REPS APPEAR AND SPEAK AT 60TH CONFERENCE. POSTPONEMENT OF GOVERNING BODY ACTION UNTIL MAY WILL NOT OBSTRUCT THIS ARAB OBJECTIVE.
 6. IF SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS CAN

AGREE IN ADVANCE OF FEBRUARY SESSION THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION, AND IF DIRECTOR GENERAL CAN BE PERSUADED TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO SECURE COOPERATION OF GOVERNING BODY CHAIRMAN, WHO IS MOROCCAN MINISTER OF LABOR, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE POSTPONEMENT. THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE QUIETLY ARRANGED BEHIND THE SCENES, HOWEVER. IF THE ISSUE WERE TO BE OPENED FOR DEBATE, THE SUPPORTERS OF OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE PLO WOULD BE OBLIGED TO CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION, AND VERY FEW OF THE OPPONENTS WOULD BE WILLING TO SPEAK. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS THE CHAIRMAN WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO DECLARING A CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF POSITIVE ACTION.

7. REQUEST ACTION POSTS TO CONSULT WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS, TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF OBTAINING A POSTPONEMENT OF GOVERNING BODY CONSIDERATION OF PLO REQUEST FROM FEBRUARY TO MAY WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO POSITION THAT ANY GOVERNING BODY MEMBER MAY TAKE IN MAY. YOU MAY REPLY TO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE US GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE BY SAYING THAT THE US IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT DELAY AND TO SO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, IF OUR FRIENDS ON THE GOVERNING BODY AGREE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH AN APPROACH.

8. ACTION POSTS IN CAPITALS SHOULD ALSO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS THAT WE ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY SEEKING VIEWS OF ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL.

9. GENEVA SHOULD SEEK ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S VIEWS RE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING POSTPONEMENT, AND INFORM HIM WE ARE CONSULTING CERTAIN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

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10. ACTION POSTS INFORM DEPARTMENT OF REACTIONS OF HOST ASAP. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 18 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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To: BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006